

CITY OF MUSKEGON  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES

July 1, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 3:58 p.m. by Chairperson, D. Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Chambers, J. Hilt, L. Spataro, L. Cole, T. Bosma, T. Russo

MEMBERS ABSENT: A. Medema, excused.

STAFF PRESENT: B. Lazor, H.Griffith

OTHERS PRESENT: J. Vantol, 1576 Peck; B. Fields, 486 W Clay; D. Kirksey, 1113 Peck; K. Kendall, 275 Houston.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 3, 2003 was made by J. Hilt, supported by L. Cole and unanimously approved.

**WALK-ON**

D. Chambers stated that the walk-on cases would be heard after new business.

**NEW BUSINESS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Case 2003-35: Request to Install a Sign. Applicant: Jim Vantol/Diane Wiegand; 1576 Peck St. District: Clinton-Peck; Class: A.** B. Lazor presented the staff report. The applicant wishes to install a 34" X 62", 1/4" thick aluminum sign near the entrance of this building. The sign is a purple color with decorative corners. The sign will be affixed to the building near the front entrance as seen in the supplied drawings. (FYI—the 1984 building survey indicates that the structure has been completely altered in reference to the façade and window treatments.) Staff recommends approval of the request to install the sign located at 1576 Peck Street. The color, size, and placement of the sign seems to compliment the area. Applicant is reminded to obtain all necessary permits and to follow all zoning guidelines.

L. Spataro asked if the building would be painted to match the sign. J. Vantol stated that he didn't know what the owner's intent was regarding this. He will only be installing the sign.

A motion that the installation of the 34" X 64", 1/4" thick aluminum sign be approved per submitted details and layout, was made by L. Spataro, supported by T. Bosma and unanimously approved.

**Case 2003-36: Request to Rebuild Porch. Applicant: Bob Fields; 486 W. Clay; District: Clay-Western; Class: AA.** B. Lazor presented the staff report. The applicant wishes to reconstruct the front porch that has been recently torn off the front of this home. Pictures found do not show what the lower half of the porch looks like because there are large bushes in the way. The applicant has supplied a drawing of what was existing. Currently, the roof and the steps are

the only remaining parts of the porch. The applicant wishes to use lattice as the skirting material and to match the spindles from the side porch. See supplied drawing. There is very little pictorial evidence available to see what the lower half of the porch used to look like because of the vegetation. The drawing supplied by the applicant looks to be historic in nature. Staff recommends approval per submitted details with the condition that the decorative square moldings not shown in the drawing, be replaced on the posts supporting the roof. Staff reminds applicant to obtain all necessary building permits and to follow all necessary zoning guidelines.

T. Russo stated that the posts look like they were tapered before and not the 4 x 4 that is up now. He has a problem with 4 x 4's. They look temporary. He would like to see them tapered. T. Bosma stated that some trim could be added to the posts. B. Fields stated that he will be tapering the posts and adding trim. B. Lazor asked the applicant if he was going to be replacing or removing the damaged lamppost. B. Fields stated that he would be replacing it with a lamppost that is similar to what was there.

A motion that the reconstruction of the front porch at 486 W. Clay is approved per submitted details with the following conditions: 1) The decking material shall be tongue and grooved wood painted to compliment or contrast the house. 2) The decorative square molding on the upper part of the supporting tapered posts (as indicated in the photos) are to be reinstalled. 3) The lamppost would be replaced with like materials, was made by T. Russo, supported by L. Cole and unanimously approved.

### **WALK-ON**

**Case 2003-38: Request to Approve an Already Installed Fence. Applicant: Richard Durga Jr.; 1219 Ransom; District: McLaughlin; Class: A.** B. Lazor presented the staff report. The applicant would like approval for the 6 ft. wooden privacy panels attached to an existing chain link fence. The applicant didn't realize that they needed permission to do this since they already had a fence up.

T. Bosma asked if the fence would meet the zoning and HDC guidelines. B. Lazor stated that it met the zoning guidelines and that he was working on the HDC guidelines so it would be more conforming with the zoning guidelines.

A motion that the request to approve an already installed fence be tabled, was made by L. Cole and died due to lack of a second.

A motion that the request to approve an already installed fence be approved, was made by T. Bosma, supported by L. Spataro and unanimously approved.

**Case 2003-39: Request to Renovate the Home. Applicant: Joshua Kirksey; 1113 Peck St.; District: McLaughlin; Class: A.** B. Lazor presented the staff report. The applicant would like to renovate the front porch deck, rail, and stairs per submitted details as well as repair and replace siding. On July 16, 2001 the previous owner had obtained HDC approval for some of these similar repairs. Mr. Kirksey is here due to some of his changes would be different than what was originally approved.

L. Spataro asked if he had finished the foundation work. D. Kirksey stated that he is still working on it. He gave a description of the work that he would like to do. The 4 x 4's would be tapered. The spindles for the front railings would be square columns (they were 2 x 2 originally).

A motion that the request to renovate the front porch per submitted details and repair siding be approved, was made by L. Spataro, supported by T. Russo and unanimously approved.

**Case 2003-40: Request to Install Siding. Applicant: Karen Kendall; 275 Houston; District: Houston; Class: A.** B. Lazor presented the staff report. The applicant was preparing the home for painting. The home had been power washed to remove the existing paint. Once this was done, they found that some of the wood was weak and they could almost stick their finger through the wood.

K. Kendall was afraid that this was beyond repair and she is afraid it would continue to deteriorate. L. Spataro had some concerns regarding covering the existing wood with siding. This may conceal any structural damage that may be there. K. Kendall stated that her contractor suggested treating the wood before placing the siding on it. She brought in a sample of the siding. She would like to maintain the same color and match what is there. L. Spataro felt it would make more sense to strip the existing wood, check the sheathing, and then put the siding on. K. Kendall stated that by treating the wood, it would be protected from anymore damage and any cracks would be filled. T. Russo stated that he had removed the wood siding on his home and is working on putting aluminum siding over the sheathing. This looks nicer and blends better with the features of the home. T. Bosma agreed with L. Spataro's concerns. Sometimes you don't know what is there. He is working with someone who has found black mold in their home. Sometimes you never know what is there until you start taking things apart.

A motion that the request to install siding be approved with the following conditions: 1) The width of the siding will match what is there. 2) The cornices, brackets, and crown molding will not be changed, was made by L. Spataro, supported by T. Russo and unanimously approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**280 W Webster.** B. Lazor gave an update that 2 yrs. ago, Muskegon Woman's Club received approval of a handicap ramp and they are going to start building it.

**Muskegon Mall/Imagine Muskegon** - D. chambers informed the commission members of the Imagine Muskegon meeting that would be on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Beardsley Theater from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. L. Spataro provided the commission members with an article he had found. He felt this was informative and could help Charter Development with renovation of the Muskegon Mall if some of the buildings were designated as Historic Districts. He gave the commission members an update of the plans for the Muskegon Mall.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

hmg  
7/1/03